

PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Hearing Date: January 31, 2003

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations: Supervision of physical therapist assistants.

(1) Section(s) Affected: 1398.44

SPECIFIC PURPOSE: To amend section 1398.44 to require the supervising physical therapist to identify himself or herself to the physical therapist assistant on each treatment day. The identification of the supervisor to the physical therapist assistant establishes responsibility and accountability of the supervising physical therapist for the patients treated by the physical therapist assistant.

The proposed amendment further defines communication requirements of both the supervising physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant through review of the patient record and co-signature of the supervisor or by case conference between the supervising physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant. The proposal also mandates that co-signature by the supervising physical therapist indicates agreement with the documentation and treatment provided by the physical therapist assistant.

FACTUAL BASIS: This section defines the requirements for supervision of the physical therapist assistant.

UNDERLYING DATA: There is no underlying data.

SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT: These regulations may have an affect on small physical therapy businesses because the language imposes a minimum standard of supervision of the physical therapist assistant, increasing the responsibility and accountability of the supervising physical therapist.

SPECIFIC TECHNOLOGIES OR EQUIPMENT: This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES: No alternatives considered would either be more effective than or equally less burdensome than the proposed regulations.